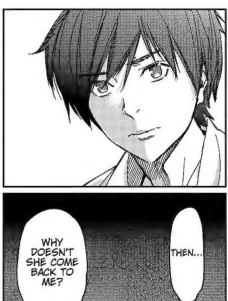
I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH
ASH WAS ALWAYS THERE TO PROTECT ME.

SHE PUT HERSELF INTO A MERCI-LESS BATTLE-FIELD
TO PROTECT ME.

BUT I...
I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT MYSELF. I IGNORED HER WARNINGS AND WENT TO THE FRONT LINES.
AND...

SHE DIED BECAUSE OF ME.

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I UNDER-STOOD
WHAT I REALLY COULD NEVER, EVER LET MYSELF LOSE.
HOW MANY TIMES DID I WANT IT TO BE A LIE,
OR WANT IT TO BE A DREAM?
HOW MUCH HAVE I RE-GRETTED
MY FOOLISH MISTAKE.


YOU HAD A DREAM, THAT'S ALL,
AND YOU TELL ME THAT ASU IS ALIVE.
THEN...
WHY DOESN'T SHE COME BACK TO ME?

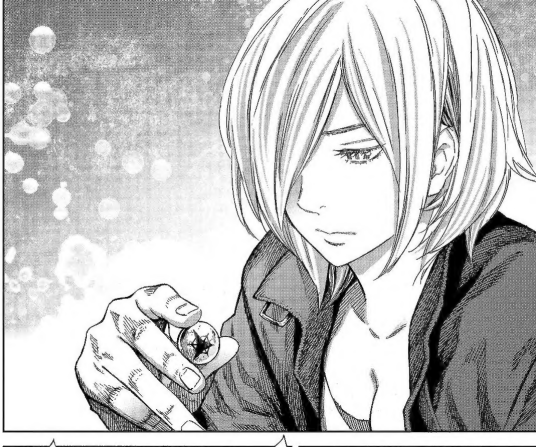
WHY DOES SHE
LEAVE ME ALONE?

...
CREAK
ナルガ

...
IT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO RESEARCH...
THIS...
THIS DIA-GRAM...

THAT PATTERN WAS INSIDE THE BEADS...
ASU WAS PLAYING WITH THE BEADS.

BANG
!?
...
RUSTLE
CREAK



WHAT'S THAT DOING HERE?!
WH-WHAT...

...SAY ANYTHING IN HER DREAM?
DID ASU...

THE WORLD BEGAN WITHOUT HUMANS, AND...
AND WHAT... WHAT CAME AFTER THAT?
I THINK IT WAS...
SHE SAID SOMETHING WEIRD.
HUH? YEAH...
BUT EITHER WAY...
?!
AND THE WORLD WILL END WITHOUT HUMANS.
WE WILL EXIST.

THIS BOX BELONGED TO ASU.
IT WAS FILLED WITH STRANGE THINGS WHOSE MEANING I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
BUT I GUESS IT DOES HAVE A MEANING.
YOU HEARD WHAT HAPPENED IN GRIMENIA FROM THE DIRECTOR, RIGHT?
YEAH...

SO MUCH OF THAT OPERATION MADE NO SENSE.
AN ELITE SOLDIER LIKE ASU HAD NO BUSINESS TRAINING CHILD SOLDIERS ANYWAY.
WE WERE BEING USED.

THE ATTACK BY MYSELF AND THE OTHER CHILDREN.
ASU'S BETRAYAL, AND THE HELICOPTER ATTACK.
THE BOMBING AFTERWARDS.

THINKING BACK, THE TIMING OF EACH EVENT WAS TOO CLOSE TO BE A COINCIDENCE.
THE ONLY THING I CAN COME UP WITH IS THAT SOMEONE, FOR SOME REASON, WANTED ASU DEAD.

SO I DECIDED TO REMAIN IN EXTERNAL INFORMATION
SO THAT I COULD LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT HER DEATH.

AND AS TIME PASSED...
I USED THE OTHER OKITE-NEMURU
THAT APPEARED BEFORE ME.

WHEN TOKIJI TURNED INTO A MONSTER, EXTERNAL INFORMATION DECIDED TO PUT HIM IN COLD SLEEP, INSTEAD OF KILLING HIM.
THAT WAS MY IDEA.
I DID IT TO USE YOUR DESIRE TO SAVE HIM, TO MAKE YOU A MEMBER OF EXTERNAL INFORMATION.

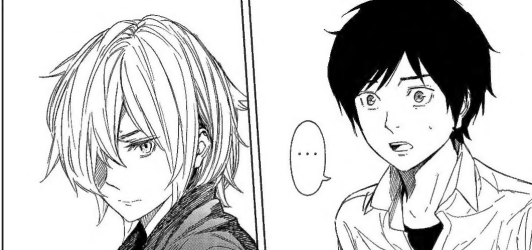
...
ME?

I USED YOU
AS BAIT TO LURE OUT THE SINGERS.

THE SINGERS KNEW ABOUT ASU'S DEATH.
IF I INVESTIGATE THEM I MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
I'M STILL...
...ONLY THINKING ABOUT MYSELF.
THAT'S WHY I...
...USED YOU.
BUT YOU...
ASU IS ALIVE!
...THOUGHT ABOUT ME.

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
MAYBE SHE IS ALIVE.
ONLY I COULD POSSIBLY KNOW ABOUT THESE BEADS.
BUT YOU KNEW OF THEM.
SHIKI
AND THOSE STRANGE WORDS ARE SOMETHING ASU USED TO HUM ALL THE TIME.
WHEN I WAS YOUNG THEY SCARED ME SO MUCH.

I MAY NOT HAVE...
THE RIGHT TO SAY THIS, BUT...
CREAK
PLEASE...
HELP ME.
I'LL FIND ASU, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
AND TO DO THAT, I NEED YOU.


...

YOU ALWAYS HELP ME OUT. SO OF COURSE I'M GOING TO HELP YOU.
WH-WHERE'S ALL THIS COMING FROM?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU!

YOU SAVED MY LIFE MANY TIMES OVER.
YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T TURN YOU DOWN, RIGHT?

A REQUEST...
I DO HAVE A REQUEST IF YOU WANT MY HELP.
OH,
BUT...
NO MORE "YOU" OR "IDIOT."
START CALLING ME KANATA.
OH...
THEN ONE MORE THING.
UH...
IS THAT ALL?

IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME,
MAKE SURE TOKIJI GETS TURNED BACK INTO A HUMAN.

UNDERSTOOD...
KANATA.